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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6437**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 157

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 30, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Natural Resources Advisory Councils.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lewis

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Hoffman

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes a single advisory council to serve the Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation and the Bureau of Lands and Cultural Resources. (Current law creates a separate advisory council for each bureau.) The bill removes per diem for advisory council members. It requires the advisory council to meet at least once every two months (rather than quarterly). (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Natural Resources Study Committee.)

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2006.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** IC 14-9-6-5 provides that members of each advisory council are entitled to receive a per diem of \$15 for each day that the members are engaged in the performance of the official functions of the council. Members are also entitled to receive reimbursement for traveling expenses that are necessarily incident to the performance of official functions. From April 2003 through December 2004, expenditures for both councils totaled \$12,170. The bill removes per diem for advisory council members, which, based on 2003-2004 council expenses, would result in a savings comparable to the expenses for the 21-month period.

Although the proposal eliminates one of the advisory chairs from serving on the Natural Resources Commission, the bill also provides that the Governor must appoint one additional citizen member to the Commission. A fiscal impact could result in a change in the Commission membership if travel for the newly appointed citizen member differed substantially from the travel expenditures of the existing advisory chair. The overall impact is expected to be minimal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR.

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